

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE SEPTEMBER 11, 2020



## CURRENT COVID STATS

### Ohio:

- 127,106 confirmed cases
- 14,164 hospitalizations
- 4,064 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 6.41 million cases
- 192,000 fatalities

### World:

- 27.9 million cases
- 905,000 fatalities

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Monday:

### Tuesday:

-House Session (If Needed)

### Wednesday:

-House Session (If Needed)

### Thursday:

-House Session (If Needed)

-Senate Session (If Needed)

### Friday:

## House Begins Energy Law Repeal

On Thursday, the House Select Committee on Energy Policy & Oversight heard bipartisan testimony on legislation in support of repealing House Bill 6, the controversial nuclear subsidy law passed last year. The committee held first hearings for twin bills, House Bill 738 and House Bill 746, and also heard from the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) on the specific provisions being repealed/possible effects on the law. Defenders of HB 6 stated that the bill should not be repealed as there were many elements of good policy included, and that the intent of the original bill was to preserve the source of most of the carbon-free energy in the state. The group plans to meet next week and hear presentations from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and PJM Interconnection.

## Early Increase in Ballot Requests

Over 1 million Ohioans have requested absentee ballots as of Wednesday (55 days prior to Election Day), according to Ohio's Secretary of State Frank LaRose. This is ahead of absentee ballot requests in 2016, when the 1 million



mark was hit just 28 days before the election. The Secretary of State's office requested Controlling Board funds to cover prepaid return postage on the ballots and continues to advocate for voters to use mail-in ballots and early voting options in the wake of the pandemic.

## Health Director Withdraws from Consideration

During his Thursday regular COVID press conference, Governor DeWine announced his selection for the new Director of the Ohio Department of Health, a position left vacant by Dr. Amy Acton's resignation in June. The Governor stated that Dr. Joan Duwve, a public health official in South Carolina, had been nominated for the position. Several hours later, Dr. Duwve withdrew from consideration, citing personal reasons. The administration will continue its search for a health director, with Lance Himes acting as Interim Director.

**Monthly Financial Report for August 2020:** <https://obm.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/obm/home/news-and-events/mfr-09-10-20>

## **Introduced Bills**

**HB 757 – Liquor Sales:** To reinstate the authorized hours of operation for liquor permit premises that existed prior to the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

**HB 758 – Athletic Events:** To require school districts to permit family member spectators at athletic activities and to declare an emergency.